(c) what is the Government's reaction by way of bringing bilateral or international pressure on the Government of South Africa?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Government is aware that violence in black townships has escalated over the past two years, coinciding with the reform measures implemented by the South African Government.

(b) Since India does not have an official representation in South Africa, it is difficult to ascertain the precise number of persons killed in group clashes in South Africa over this period. However, according to press reports, thousands of people have been killed in internecine violence in black townships in the Provinces of Natal and Transvaal.

(c) The Government has deplored these instances of township violence and has welcomed the Peace Accord concluded on September 14, 1991, between the African National Congress the Inkatha Freedom Party, the South African Government and other political parties in an attempt to put an end to this violence. India hopes that the Government and all other parties would take urgent and effective to implement the Peace Accord.

Steps taken to make Indian ocean a Zone of peace

2562. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of military bases set up so far by foreign countries in the Indian Ocean;

(b) whether these bases are in conformity with the 1971 U.N. resolution to make Indian Ocean a zone of peace; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to make Indian Ocean a peace zone?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) While the precise number of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean is not known, these bases are not in conformity with the 1971 UN resolution on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace which calls for the elimination of foreign military presence in the Indian Ocean.

(c) India supports the 1971 declaration, has taken up this issue with a number of countries bilaterally, and, has participated actively in the U.N. Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean which is considering this issue.

Supply of arms by Sri Lankan Government to LTTE

2563. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sri Lankan Government supplied arms to the LTTE to fight the Indian Peace Keeping Force;

(b) whether Government have ascertained this from the Sri Lankan Government; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) Government are aware of reports of assistance by Sri Lanka Government to LTTE against the IPKF prior to its de-induction in March 1990. Government had taken up the matter at the time with Sri Lanka Government. Sri Lanka Government continues to maintain that its assistance to LTTE was not directed against IPKF but to enable LTTE to confront rival Tamil groups including the Tamil National Army. Government of India is of the view that even ths explanation by the Government of Sri Lanka goes against the letter and spirit of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement of 1987 to which it still remains a party.

Visits of foreign delegations

2564. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign delegations which visited India during the last six months; and

(b) the number of Indian delegations which went abroad during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from various Ministries/ Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Simplification of VISA procedures

2565. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have simplified visa procedures and immigration laws